

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9380

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1725

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, EI, IK (NI), US

SUBJECT: PRESS ATTENTION TO SUPPOSED U.S. PEACE INITIATIVE IN
NORTH IRELAND

1. UNDER THE HEADLINES "MOVE TO END VIOLENCE" AND
"CARTER PLAN TO HELP NORTH", THE IRISH SUNDAY PRESS RAN A
FRONT-PAGE STORY THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD SOON MAKE AN
INITIATIVE ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEM.

QUOTE. SOURCES IN LONDON AND DUBLIN LAST NIGHT
INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL SOON PUT FORWARD
A SERIES OF PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO END THE VIOLENCE
IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

DETAILS OF THE COMPLEX PACKAGE HAVE NOT
YET BEEN RELEASED, BUT IT IS BELIEVED THAT BOTH
THE IRISH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS ARE AWARE OF
THE CONTENTS.

GOVERNMENT SOURCES IN DUBLIN REFUSED TO COMMENT
OFFICIALLY LAST NIGHT, BUT IT WAS RELIABLY LEARNED
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WENT AHEAD WITH HIS NORTHERN
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IRELAND INITIATIVE AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH IRISH
DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON.

PRESIDENT CARTER IS EXPECTED TO OUTLINE HIS
PLAN IN A MAJOR SPEECH WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS,
ACCORDING TO THE LONDON SUNDAY TIMES.

SENATOR PATRICK MOYNIHAN SAID EARLY TODAY THAT THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE DISCUSSED NORTHERN IRELAND WITH THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, DR. DAVID OWEN, AT A NATO MEETING IN BRUSSELS RECENTLY.

"I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE PROBLEM OF NORTHERN IRELAND IS MAKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE MAZE WHICH HAS CLOUDED IT FOR SO LONG," SENATOR MOYNIHAN ADDED.

"WE HAVE BEEN URGING THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A POSITION ON NORTHERN IRELAND FOR SOME TIME, BUT WE HAVE NO IDEA OF THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW."

THE SENATOR SAID THAT AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AT THE COURT OF ST. JAMES HAD CAREFULLY AVOIDED THE SUBJECT FOR THE PAST 50 YEARS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE BRITISH WERE MAKING A MESS OF RULING NORTHERN IRELAND AND THEY RESENTED ANYONE POINTING IT OUT.

U.S. HELP. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS PROPOSALS INCLUDE A PROMISE OF AMERICAN HELP TO BOTH COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH IF IT WOULD HELP THEM FIND A POLITICAL
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SOLUTION AND END THE VIOLENCE.

APART FROM THE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OF THE STRONG IRISH LOBBY, MR. CARTER'S INTERVENTION IS ALSO SEEN AS PART OF HIS CONTINUING CRUSADE TO BRING PEACE TO TROUBLE SPOTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

IRISH-AMERICAN POLITICIANS HAVE FREQUENTLY STRESSED THE NEED FOR TIGHT CONTROLS IN THE U.S. WHICH WOULD CUT OFF THE FLOW OF AID TO THE IRA.

ON JUNE 9 LAST, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THOMAS P. O'NEILL, GOVERNOR HUGH CAREY OF NEW YORK, AND SENATORS EDWARD KENNEDY AND PATRICK MOYNIHAN, MET THE SECRETARY OF STATE, CYRUS VANCE, TO URGE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER REINFORCE THEIR MESSAGE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON CONFIRMED LAST NIGHT THAT THE TALKS ON JUNE 9 BETWEEN THE IRISH-AMERICAN POLITICIANS DID INCLUDE THE TOPIC OF NORTHERN IRELAND.

BUT ON THE PROPOSED SPEECH BY PRESIDENT
CARTER, THE SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO COMMENT.

NO APPROACHES. FINE GAEL LEADER AND FORMER
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. GARRET FITZGERALD
SAID THAT NO OFFICIAL APPROACHES HAD BEEN MADE
BY THE COALITION TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ON THE
ISSUE OF INTERVENTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

DR. FITZGERALD SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS
AWARE THAT THE FOUR IRISH-AMERICAN POLITICIANS WERE
MAKING TREMENDOUS EFFORTS TO SET MACHINERY IN MOTION
TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND.
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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY IN DUBLIN
SAID HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY APPROACHES BY AMERICAN
DIPLOMATS TO IRISH OR BRITISH POLITICIANS.

HE ADDED THAT THEY KNEW NOTHING OF "ANY
IMMINENT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT." UNQUOTE
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Disposition Event:
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